

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ATI IN CENTRAL VISAYAS

# KAUGMARAN

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021

VOLUME 5 | NO. 3

COVER STORY 8-11

## *Resiliency amidst* **Trying times**





# Contents

October-December 2021  
VOLUME 5 NO. 4

## 3 4 CLIMATE RESILIENCY FARM BUSINESS SCHOOLS CONDUCTED *new extension modality*



## 4 REGULAR *activities*

- RAFEN-7 HOLDS VIRTUAL SUMMIT
- BLENDED TRAINING ON GENDER-BASED NFTS HELD IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

## 5 - ATI-7 AWARDS 2.25M TO YOUNG AGRIPRENEURS



## 6 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE *activities*

- ATI JOINS 7TH NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MONTH CELEBRATION
- KABOOM UNDERGO PGS CERTIFICATION TRAINING



## 7 CORN-CASSAVA *activities*

- OFS TRAINED IN NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION

## LIVESTOCK PROGRAM *updates*

- 2 BATCHES BANTAY ASF SA BARANGAY IN CEBU



## 8-11 COVER *story* *Resiliency amidst* TRYING TIMES

## 12 RICE PROGRAM *activities*

- ATI-7 PRODUCES 41 TRAINERS FOR DAC-RCEF
- FARMERS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL BRIEF ON RCM



## 13 - NRAM 2021 FEATURES MONTH-LONG RICE/IEC DISPLAY - TGP SUMMIT 2021 IN THE REGION



## 14 - NURSERY ACCREDITATION TRAINING FOR A SUSTAINABLE QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL - AGRIKIDS ROLL OUT IN BOHOL

## 15 HVCD PROGRAM *activities*

- NEGROS ORIENTAL FARMERS TRAINS CORN/CASSAVA PRODUCTION



## LEARNING SITE *updates*

- ATI CERTIFIES 2 LSA IN CENTRAL VISAYAS



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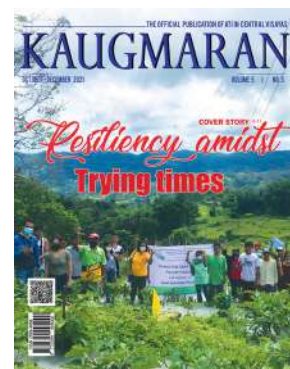


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On our cover features  
resiliency amidst the  
trying times

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KAUGMARAN  
(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term  
for development





# 4 CLIMATE RESILIENCY FARM BUSINESS SCHOOLS CONDUCTED

*new extension modality*

by maryjane flor patulilic

**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS – Four batches of Climate Resiliency Farm Business School (CRFBS) are being conducted in the four provinces of Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor in the region which was launched last June and finished in December 2021.

The CRFBS is a four-month course which aims to enhance the farmers' knowledge, skills and attitude in rice and vegetable farming as well as marketing techniques that can help them increase profitability and preserve the environment.

Ninety-one (91) farmers completed the course in the region wherein the success of the said activity was through the strong coordination and collaboration between the ATI Central Visayas and the local government units.

The coordinating LGUs are from the Office of the City Agriculturist in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental through Allimar Amaat and Jenifer E. Isaac with Amelia B. Sibla from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist. Also from the Office of the Municipal Agriculture in Pinamungahan, Cebu through Lorelie Marie R. Caingles and Gemar N. Pefanio with Joseph E. Dela Cerna from the Office of the Provincial Agriculture.

While from the Office of the Municipal Agriculture of Alburquerque, Bohol through Ireneo Penticase, Windel N. Malaran and Leonardo Samar with Felix N. Tubiano of the Bohol Agricultural Promotion Center. In San Juan, Siquijor, the activity was coordinated with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist thru Aiza Ann Daligdig; Celso T. Jumawan, Novelyn B. Omandam, Emigdio P. Coritico, Layzan S. Macalisang and Lilibeth P. Caroro.

The project officer of these CRFBS was Engr. Jonathan Sumagang with the technical support of Arnel Navarro, Mary Daphny Tumala and Ryan Joshua Villena.

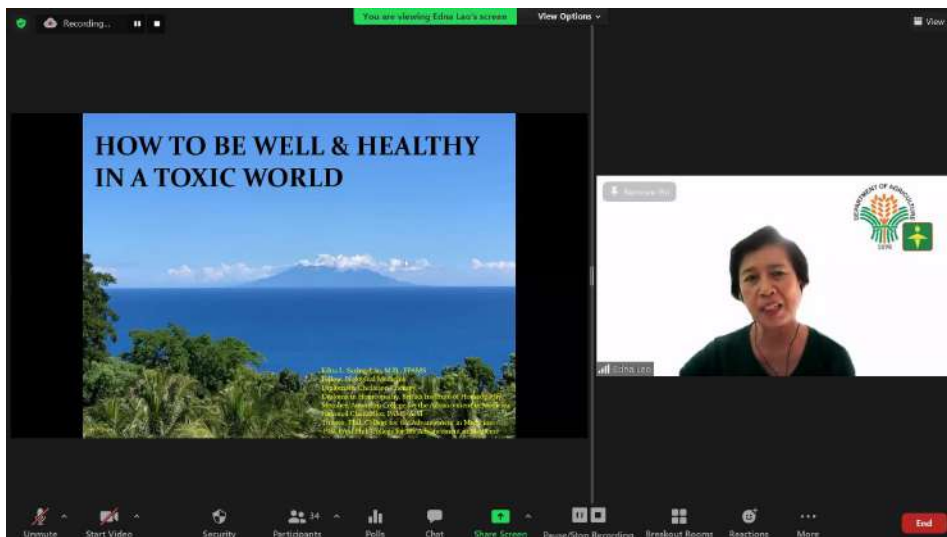
The Climate Resiliency Farm Business School (CRFBS) is a new extension modality that aims to work with farmers to help them build knowledge and skills to make their farms more profitable and resilient amidst the unpredictable effects of climate change. This training course integrates the concept of farming as a business, good agricultural practices and risk-proofing their livelihood against weather events. This program takes the school to the farmers having Farmer Field School (FFS), Climate-Smart Farmer Field School (CSFFS) and Farm Business School (FBS) in one forum.



# REGULAR *activities*

by maryjane flor patulilic and doris isabel j. racho

## RAFEN-7 HOLDS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

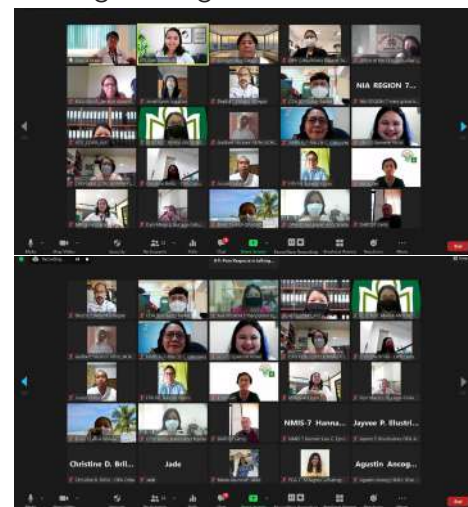


The pool of speakers include: Dr. Maria Asuncion A. Jalad, Physician of Jalad Health and Wellness Clinic with Dr. Edna S. Lao, Fellow – Biological Medicine and Diplomat – Chelation Therapy and Owner/ Proprietor of Lao Medical Clinics in Parañaque.

Training Center Superintendent I of ATI-7, Gracia F. Arado, PhD was the Project Officer with Quennie B. Lou Vistal and Ma. Pamela N. Macaambac as members of the training management team.

CENTRAL VISAYAS – The Agricultural Training Institute-7 held its virtual summit among the members of the Regional Agriculture, Fishery and Extension Network (RAFEN) last December 6, 2021 via zoom.

Thirty RAFEN-7 members actively participated in the event which highlighted **“Living Healthy betwixt Global Health Crisis.”** Thus, inputs on how to live healthy in a toxic world were made in order to upkeep the participant’s knowledge and attitude so that they will appreciate and be aware about lifestyle medicine.



## BLENDED TRAINING ON GENDER-BASED NFTS HELD IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

NEGROS ORIENTAL – A three-day blended training on Gender-Based Natural Farming Technology Systems (NFS) was held at Stella Maris Retreat House, Bacong, this province and through google meet last October 5-7, 2021.

The objective of the training is to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on the natural farming technology system as well as refresh their knowledge on the equally important role of both men and women in economic development of the society. They are also expected to demonstrate the skills in various practices of nature farming, its advantages and comparative benefits over other farming systems and apply appropriate production technology for specific farm activities and management.

Twenty-two farmer-participants from the different municipalities of Negros Oriental participated in the training.

The resource persons were Reyland P. Jabonillo, Farmer/

Farm Owner of Junjabs Farm, Punsod, Maribojoc, Bohol; Angelina L. Bondad, Freelancer from Dumaguete City; Jacqueline S. Eran, Agriculturist II of the Provincial Agriculture Office, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental; Kim S. Rivera, Weather Observer I of PAG-ASA, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental; June Rey A. Cabildo, Market Specialist II of the Provincial Veterinary Office, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental and Alvin A. Blaza, Retired Supervising Agriculturist from Bindoy, Negros Oriental.





## Youth in Agripreneurship

# Grand Winners

Agribusiness Plan Pitching Competition

### Beginners Category (P150,000.00)



**SAIRAH S. SAMARCA**  
MARIBOJOC, BOHOL  
LACHIN'S Integrated Farm



**ERIC VINCENT L. DAGUPLO**  
PILAR, BOHOL  
Green House Organic Hydroponic  
Vertical Gardening



**ARIEL V. CAVALIDA**  
ALOGUINSAN, CEBU  
Broiler and Pig Production

### Intermediate Category (P250,000.00)



**FEL VINCENT VARGAS**  
MARIBOJOC, BOHOL  
Bohol Crayfish Farm



**ALLJE A. SAAVEDRA**  
MINGLANILLA, CEBU  
Farmication



**YVONNE A. UY**  
SIQUIJOR, SIQUIJOR  
VonRix Integrated Farm

### Advanced Category (P350,000.00)



**SEAN RAPHAEL S. DUMANGOG**  
CALAPE, BOHOL  
Expansion of Shann's  
Cacao Products



**KAY-ANN A. MANINGO**  
SAN JUAN, SIQUIJOR  
Sardam farm's poultry  
production



**VJ G. MENDEZ**  
SAN MIGUEL, BOHOL  
Organic Vegetable Garden

#ISHAREKNOWLEDGE #ATIINSPIRE #ATILEADS

#ATICENTRALVISAYAS



## ATI-7 AWARDS 2.25M TO YOUNG AGRIPRENEURS

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – A total of Two Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 2,250,000.00) was bagged by nine (9) lucky winners of the Agribusiness Plan Pitching Competition under the Youth in Agripreneurship Program of the Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute VII (DA-ATI-7) on December 14, 2021, this city.

The Agripreneurship Training Program generally aims to holistically empower the youth to become agripreneurs and viable partners in agricultural development. Specifically, it aims to engage more youth in agriculture through capability building programs; Improve the participants' knowledge, attitude, skills, and practices in agriculture and agri-entrepreneurship;

Promote youth agripreneurship development through the establishment and enhancement of learning centers and learning hubs; Highlight the contribution of young agripreneurs by acknowledging their innovative ideas on agribusiness; Develop the promotional skills of young agripreneurs via social media marketing and the crafting of audio-visual materials; and Expand agripreneurship to the family through the youth.

Meanwhile, ATI-7 is among the 3 pilot Regional Training Centers to implement said program starting on November 9 to 26, 2021. The training is categorized and conducted accordingly based on the agriculture and entrepreneurship experiences of the youths - beginner, intermediate, and advanced. A total of 156 youth in Central Visayas participated in the program.

Proposals to the agribusiness pitching were assessed, evaluated and judged with the following criteria: Innovativeness of the business proposal, Entrepreneurial attributes, Revenue stream of the business proposal and Value Addition.

The grant shall serve as start-up capital for beginner and additional capital for intermediate and advanced.

Winners for the Beginners Category which received P150,000 each were Sairah S. Samarca, Eric Vincent L. Daguplo, and Ariel V. Cavalida, while Intermediate Category will receive P250,000 each, winners were Fel Vincent Vargas; Allje A. Saavedra; Yvonne A. Uy. Moreover, Advanced Category will receive P350,000.00 each, winners were Sean Raphael S. Dumangog, Kay-Ann A. Maningo and VJ G. Mendez.



# ATI JOINS 7TH NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MONTH CELEBRATION



**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS – The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in the region joined the national effort to further promote, propagate, develop, and implement the practice of organic agriculture as part of the celebration of the 7th National Organic Agriculture Month.

This year's celebration bore the theme "**Organikong Pagsasaka, Sagot sa Pandemya.**" which aimed to address the needs of people in accessing healthy and safe food especially during this pandemic. The month-long activity showcased different practices, technology, and products

from various organic agriculture (OA) stakeholders all over the country.

Together with the Department of Agriculture (DA) attached agencies; DA Regional Field Offices; Farmers Association; Academe and other institutions' support the promotion of organic agriculture in the country through various activities such as webinar series and media promotions.

ATI in Central Visayas' means of supporting the month-long celebration, a weekly upload on social media about information around organic is being posted on ATI official Facebook Page and Instagram accounts respectively. While, on November 12, 2021, a webinar on Kainang Organik Ngayong Pandemic: Preparing Healthy Food and Healthy Juices was featured on ATI-Central Visayas Facebook Page.

On November 16, 2021, a face-to-face seminar on the same topic was conducted among the ATI Central Visayas Learning Site cooperators who are organic agriculture practitioners and enthusiasts. Twenty (20) participants attended the said activity in Green Thumb, Corella, Bohol.

Resource persons during the activity were Merigine C. Otara, ATI-7 Planning Officer, a culinary medicine practitioner and Dr. Maria Asuncion A. Jalad, a medical practitioner while Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay as the Project Officer with Angelie B. Menede served as a member of the training management team.

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance initiatives that follow the production-to-consumption approach in providing guarantees on the integrity and quality of organic products. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

On October 11-15, 2021, a Training on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) was conducted in Sunset Villa, Taloto District, this city, with 12 farmers-members of the Kapunongan sa Bol-anong Organikong Mag-uuma (KBOOM) and 8 agricultural extension workers (three from the provincial agriculture's office, three from the municipal agriculture's office and two from the state university) participated in the training.

The training aimed to capacitate PGS Groups on the establishment and operations consistent with the organic agriculture standards and

## KBOOM UNDERGO PGS CERTIFICATION TRAINING



corresponding technical regulations.

In the five-day course of the training, participants learned the salient provisions including the implementing rules and regulations of the Organic Agriculture Act as amended by RA 11511 on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS); the organic agriculture standards and the national list of permitted substances for organic agriculture; the general requirements and procedures for accreditation of PGS group; how to conduct of peer review and certification protocols,

and how to apply the applicable current Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture. Andrew M. Macaambac and Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay from ATI RTC VII, Mae Montecillo from Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 7 in Cebu, and Emmanuel A. Odtohan from DA-Provincial Agriculture Technology Coordinating Office in Bohol shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons while Maryjane Flor Patullilic-Bonilla served as member of the training management team.

**ORGANIC AGRICULTURE** *activities*  
by maryjane flor patullilic and merrian piquero soliva, phd



## 2 BATCHES BANTAY SA ASF SA BARANGAY IN CEBU

**C**EBU – Two batches of Barangay Biosecurity and Surveillance Lecture and Workshop was conducted last December 9, 2021 participated by 23 agricultural extension workers and farmer-leaders.

It was held at ATI-7's Extension Service Provider, the St. Peter Academy of Alegria Foundation Inc. (SPAIFI), Alegria, this province.

The ultimate reason of conducting the activity is to enhance the biosecurity measures of currently upsurge African Swine Fever (ASF) disease.

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs. In its acute form the disease generally results in high mortality. ASF is a different disease to swine flu. The virus does not affect people and there is no impact on human health.

These include how virulent ASF virus and its mode of transmission; identification of feasible entry-point of ASF disease in the respective municipality or province; distinguish diseased animals infected with ASF; and collection of reports of unhealthy animals.

Spearheading the training is Mr. Vherney C. Cabasag, II, Development Management Officer I and at the same time the Livestock Focal of ATI-7 together with Daniel D. De Vera, DVM, Farm Veterinarian of National Dairy Authority (NDA), Southern Mindanao and John Jamael Patagoc, DVM, Veterinary II of DA RFO, Maguikay Mandaue City Cebu.

## OFWS TRAINED ON NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – To support the reintegration of returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), there is a need to diversify livelihood options one of which is around livestock raising where one of the promising aspects is into chicken production.

Last October 12-14, 2021, ATI in Central Visayas through Project Officer, Training Specialist II, Jorge F. Trinidad conducted a three-day training titled, "Ato ni Bai: A Training on Free Range Chicken Production for OFW." The activity was conducted at JJ's Seafood Village this city.

A total of 19 OFWs from the municipalities of Albuquerque, Antequera, Balilihan, Candijay, Clarin, Corella, Guindulman, Lila, Loboc, Loon, Maribojoc, Sierra Bullones, and Tagbilaran City attended. These OFWs were mostly working as domestic helpers, seafarers, bar tenders, electrical technicians and aircraft maintenance.

The training aimed to educate participants on chicken production as well as medication of the different diseases to come up with a profitable chicken enterprise. During the three-day training, participants learned about the status of chicken and swine industry in the province; chicken production technologies; different breeds of chicken; free-range chicken production technologies; recording system for chicken production and economics of chicken production.

**"I have learned so many things from this training. Among the learnings I have gained, one that I found interesting was the breeding strategies. I have been trying to raise chickens and I realized that my ways were wrong. I also learned the bad effects of inbreeding in chicken,"** said Edgardo P. Doria – one of the training participants.

The pool of trainers were Joemelyn A. Sumagang, Training Specialist II of ATI RTC 7; Reyland P. Jabonillo a private practitioner, and Meydallyn D. Paman, DVM of the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian in Bohol while Jovanie Picot served as member of the training management team.





# Resiliency amidst TRYING TIMES



It has been barely two (2) years that the world faced the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. All of us experienced the sudden twist of events where the so-called normalcy vanished. No one was spared in terms of fear, mixed emotions, and all the inconveniences.

Most were vehement because we were caught off-guard. Some even denied that this virus does exist, even if the statistics of cases were obvious. Our country, the Philippines got 2,843,979 total numbers of cases with 14,233 active; 51,504 deaths, and 2,778,242 recoveries as of December 31, 2021, as per the Department of Health's Covid19 Case Bulletin. (<https://doh.gov.ph/covid19casebulletin657#expanded>).





From the diversity of variants, COVID-19 continued to be a health threat even if almost the majority of the Filipinos are fully vaccinated and or boosted and our medical community and experts worldwide don't sleep to discover remedies and medicines.

Health organizations, institutions even our government are doubling their efforts making sure that our medical needs are on the top lists of priorities regardless of other challenges that haunt us every day. Protocols are in place and strictly adhered to, even all outlets of medium both the traditional and social media shared and promoted advocacies for everybody's safety.

How we are bracing these dark times, needs enough patience and tolerance, whatever coping mechanisms that we have all done, let us continue to be positive and resilient because sooner we will find the light, and for sure, we can once again brush our elbows and see each other's smiles without hiding in that mask.

### Resiliency unlocked

We at the Agricultural Training Institute as



the training and extension arm of the Department of Agriculture are keeping our toes to unlock our resiliency potentials. Given the task to administer and conduct face-to-face activities with our clients, we had high hopes that we can give our best in the name of service through other means that is through virtual and limited presence.

Undeniably, the past two years, we had unlocked numerous innovations to continue serving our clients. From online-platform assisted webinars, information caravans, meetings, conferences, school-on-the-air, and other





extension and training to limited face-to-face and field activities. Yet, our accomplishments are doing best at par excellent.

### Linkaging is the name of the game

With the continuous and strong partnership and linkages among our partners, ATI's extension and training services are inevitably palpable. Our clients' needs are heeded even if the social presence among personnel is sometimes limited.

Through the help of our counterparts, the Local Government

Units; Academic institutions; Non-governmental organizations, and Learning Sites in our areas of concern made our work easier. Their undying support is accounted for, our accomplishments are indebted to them so with our clients who never retreated to openly-accepted our activities – because of them, ATI continued to be the orchestrator of the National Extension System which ensures harmonized management of agricultural and fishery extension delivery system in empowering the farmers and fishers for food security, poverty alleviation and social equity for sustainable development.

### Another challenge

It was midweek of December 2021; specifically on the 16th, Super Typhoon Rai (known as "Odette" in the Philippines) hit the country and was considered the strongest storm of 2021. A Super Typhoon is equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane. Thus, Rai (Odette) was the third Category 5 typhoon in the South China Sea and the first Category 5 storm to develop in December since 2016. (<https://disasterphilanthropy.org/disaster/super-typhoon-odette-rai/>).

This rapid intensification of storms is becoming more common due to climate change, which is not new to us. Odette damaged houses, infrastructure, and





started to generate resources to somehow support the government instituted relief operations and private entities and establishments are offering the community to supply generator-powered sets for charging and many more.

More and more assistance in diverse forms are now given to the directly hit by Odette, while others who are indirectly affected also were benefitted. Like that of the agriculture sector, responsible National Agencies as well as local government units and community-driven organizations are also making some efforts to help our farmers and fishers who day-by-day are struggling to go back and rehabilitate what has been destroyed.

Collective efforts were done, not in a manner that can be seen and felt directly, but little did they know that these concerned agencies are making sure that all will be given equal opportunities. Surely, everybody embraces this challenge and face it as we heal as one.

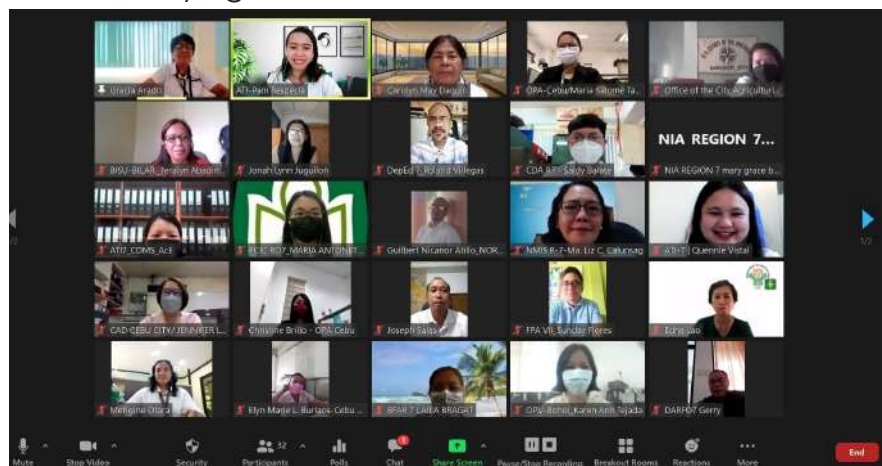
Whatever our status maybe like, we are all affected and as one, we will uncover our potentials, both, hard and soft skills so that we can be resilient amidst every trying time.

livelihoods on a comparable scale. It hits the people across the country who undeniably was on the verged of coping with increasing poverty, unemployment, and a roll-back on development gains following two years of the pandemic. Their resources are now depleted and local coping capacities are severely strained. But, despite all of these, Odette's casualties were significantly lower in number through the pre-emptive measures undertaken by the communities and the local government.

Thousands of families were evacuated across the Visayas' regions as Typhoon Odette (Rai) raged through the central part of the Philippines after wreaking havoc in Mindanao. The island provinces of Central Visayas where ATI-7's area of coverage are not spared but with the resiliency embraced, we are now on the stage of collecting pieces to start anew, as we accept the challenges of having no water, power, and internet connectivity.

**Synergy built**

The challenges that resulted to Odette's wrath built synergy among organizations, institutions, and individuals from both the private and the public sectors. Manpower complements started to fix damaged and broken power lines; telephone companies are augmenting their services to continue reaching families afar and online jobs; individuals





## ATI-7 PRODUCES 41 TRAINERS FOR DAC-RCEF



**T**AGBILARAN CITY – The Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas successfully conducted the two (2) batches of the Digital Agriculture Course for Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (DAC-RCEF)-Regional Training of Trainers Batch 1 via zoom last October 12-14, 2021 for Batch-1 and October 20-22, 2021 Batch 2 respectively.

Forty-one participants successfully completed all the requirements needed to become Regional Trainers for DAC-RCEF. These participants were from the Accredited Learning Sites of ATI and TESDA in the region, namely: Balloca's Family Farm in Bulilis, Ubay, Bohol; Labonite Farm Family in San Isidro, Pilar, Bohol; Iyaah Eco Farm in Tugas, Candijay, Bohol; Don Alberto's Farm in Matin-ao, Carmen, Bohol; Gomentoc Valley Farm in Ayungon, Negros Oriental; CAGRI Complex-Learning Farm (Rice-based) in Villareal, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental and Elhard Integrated Farm in Candura, San Juan, Siquijor.

Some participants were from ATI-7 Learning Sites (LS) attended the batch 2 training. These LS were from the region, namely: For Bohol: Oikos Peace Garden of Bilar; JQL in Dimiao and Jolits Garden of Batuan; for Cebu: First Consolidated Cooperative along Tañon Seabords (FCCT) in Tuburan; N Blessings of Pamutan;

Charis Wellness Garden of Lapulapu City and Pestales Agriculture Cooperative of Argao; while for Negros Oriental: JORACS Family Farm of Amlan.

The objective of the training is to train farm schools in implementing the Digital Agriculture Course for RCEF as well as Learning Sites. It will also complement the Farmer Field School as it aims to capacitate and prepare Farm School representatives to implement digital literacy training for farmers in their respective areas.

The expected outputs of the participants include: a) an action plan in implementing a short course on Digital Agriculture for RCEF for farmers in their respective areas and b) a Video recording of microteaching session.

The three-day DAC-RCEF TOT was spearheaded by its Project Officer, Merrian Piquero Soliva, PhD with Ma. Pamela R. Macaambac, Technical Support Staff and Doris Isabel J. Racho, Information Officer II of ATI-7 and Janille Rose C. Gultiano, Public Affairs Officer, Public Affairs VisMin of SMART Communication as the Resource Speakers with May Joy Luzon, Supporting Staff.

## ATI-7 BRIEFS NEGOR FARMERS ON RCM

**N**EGROS ORIENTAL – Two batches of Rice Crop Manager (RCM) Technical Briefing was conducted in the cities of Guihulngan and Canlaon City this province last October 27 and 28, 2021 with the purpose of updating the participants on the use of information and communications technology (ICT) as a tool to provide farmers with personalized information on optimal crop and nutrient management.

A total of 100 farmers attended the said activity which was facilitated by ATI-7 Technical Support Staff, Ryan Joshua Villena with Allimar Amaat, Agricultural Technologist of LGU-Guihulngan City and Glen Handumon, Rice Technician of LGU-Canlaon City as Resource Persons respectively.



**RICE PROGRAM** *activities*  
by maryjane flor patulilic and merrian piquero soliva, phd





## NRAM 2021 FEATURES MONTH-LONG RICE/IEC DISPLAY

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – In celebration of the 2021 National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) with this year's theme: "Be RICEponsibly Healthy," ATI in Central Visayas showcased a variety of organic rice alongside with information education materials (IEC) at the ground floor, milk section of the Island City Mall, this city. November is NRAM's activity which seeks to raise consciousness among Filipinos on how to consume rice, the healthy way highlighting responsible rice intake towards a healthy Filipino lifestyle patronizing locally-produced rice.

Moreover, NRAM aired live via ATI-7's official FB page last November 25, 2021 the USAPANG TAGUMPAY: STORIES of farmers in Central Visayas featuring RCEF Learning Sites and wrap-up with a Rice Crop Manager (RCM) Briefing to 50 farmers of Batuan, Bohol and distribution of fertilizer.



1. Robert Olaer of Iyaah Farm  
 2. Rodelito Balloca of Balloca Farm  
 3. Joel Diccion of Calatrava Eco Farm  
 4. Jose and Marina Labonite of Labonite Family Farm

USAPANG TAGUMPAY  
**STORIES OF FARMERS**  
*in Central Visayas*



## TGP SUMMIT 2021 IN THE REGION

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – Thirty-three (33) Farmers Information Technology Service (FITS) Center staff from the provinces of Bohol and Siquijor joined the Techno Gabay Program (TGP Summit) held via Zoom on November 5, 2021.

The Techno Gabay Program (TGP) is an extension modality that aims to enhance the delivery of science-based information and technology services to end-users, the farmers and the fishers. One of its components is the FITS Center where in Region VII, a total 86 active FITS centers and 6 kiosks were established.

At present, this FITS centers provides assistance to a large number of farmers, rural women, students, entrepreneurs, and other clients through available IEC, ICT, and advisory services. Meanwhile, ATI being the lead agency in the extension has come up with strategies to enhance the access of the farmers to information relevant to them. Among these is the collaboration with Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers to deliver information and technology services down to the barangay level.

As there are newly established FITS and most staff in the entire region are new, ATI-7 finds it necessary to conduct the Summit to brief them on different guidelines and strategies in FITS implementation in their respective areas. Speaker during the summit is Ms. Erika Viscarra, IO II of the Information Services Division of ATI Central Office, while Ms. May Joy Luzon of ATI-7 discussed the techniques on technoguide development.

Sharing of Best practices and presentation of the selected participants FITS center were also done during the Summit. One sharer is Municipal Agriculturist Hipolita Ayuban were she mentioned how the downloadable IECs posted by FITS Central Visayas page helped them reproduce assorted technoguides where they used for giveaway to farmers alongside with the vegetable seeds provided by the Municipal Agriculture Office of Alicia, Bohol during the height of the pandemic.

Moreover, FITS Focal Person Doris Isabel J Racho prepared assorted Information, Communication and Technology equipment for the lucky winners of the Best FITS Center and Best Developed & Enhanced Technoguide which will be announced by December 2021. Meanwhile TGP Summit for the provinces of Cebu and Negros Oriental is slated for the year 2022.





## NURSERY ACCREDITATION TRAINING FOR A SUSTAINABLE QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL

**B**OHOL – A region wide training on Nursery Establishment, Management and Accreditation was conducted on November 18-19, 2021 in Ubay, this municipality. Twenty-one (21) private and local government representatives from plant nursery operators of Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor were able to complete the two-day training. The training was conducted through a blended approach where participants from each province were gathered in one venue. Establishment of accredited nurseries is essential for quality seed sources and planting materials of known genetic identity.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) through the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) is mandated to implement a Plant Nursery Accreditation and Plant Material Certification Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) which are in line with DA's thrust for the production and distribution of quality planting materials from accredited plant nurseries.

The training was implemented in coordination and collaboration between ATI RTC 7, BPI- NSQCS and DA- RFO 7 which aims to capacitate the nursery operators in plant nursery establishment, management and accreditation. In the course of the two-day training, participants learned the importance and process of plant nursery accreditation and plant material certification for quality planting materials; the protocols of accreditation of a nursery establishment; and the requirements of a plant nursery. Participants were also able to demonstrate the different plant propagation techniques such as grafting, budding and marcotting during the demonstration activity at Bohol Experimental Station (BES) nursery in Ubay, Mandaue Experimental Station (MES) nursery, in Cebu and municipal nursery in Valencia, Negros Oriental.

Marcheta C. Brina and Christine Calamba of BPI-NSQCS in Ubay, Bohol and Rosarita Crenca from BES of DA RFO 7 shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons. Arnel S. Navarro, Mary Daphny Tumala, Maryjane Flor Patulilic-Bonilla, and Ryan Joshua Villena of ATI RTC 7 supported the training from different provinces and served as members of the training management team while Training Specialist II, Joemelyn A. Sumagman is the Project Officer.

## AGRIKIDS ROLL OUT IN BOHOL

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – Sixty (60) Elementary students from the University of Bohol – Victoriano D. Tirol – Advance Learning Center (UB-VDT ALC), Bohol International Learning College, Prodigy Discovery School, and Cabawan Elementary School, participated the first AgriKids 2021 with the theme "Glamourizing Agriculture in a Digital Age" held via Zoom and simulcast at Agricultural Training Institute – VII (ATI-7) official Facebook Page on November 5, this city.

AgriKids is under the Organic Agriculture program launched by the information services section of ATI-7. As mentioned on this year's National Food Summit, the Department of Agriculture continues to train and empower more young "agri-preneurs" to take the reins from aging farm-leaders, help attain food security, and push Philippine agriculture into the future.

Topics include Digital Addiction with Enrique Felisario, PhD of Rainbow Playroom, a Psychological Services Center based in Cebu City and and Gardening is Fun by Mrs. Pablita Cabarles - a Gulayan Sa Paaralan Program (GPP) Implementer of Manga National High School and a Regional Awardee for GPP Implementer 2021.

To fully appreciate the event, kids had a free Farm Tour at South Farm – one of ATI 7 Learning Site for Agriculture, for them to experience what it is to be in a farm and to get in touch with nature. AgriKids is also being sponsored by the Alay Marcela Foundation, through the Marcela Farms where fertilizers were given away for free to the attendees. Likewise, ATI provide seeds, farm kits, and pots with painting materials for them to start gardening while making it fun and exciting.





## ATI CERTIFIES 2 LSAS IN CENTRAL VISAYAS

**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS – The Agricultural Training Institute in its pursuit for timely delivery of extension, certifies two Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) in the region.

The core function of LSA will serve as model or an example to showcase applicable agriculture technologies/agri-products/by-products processing technologies and thereby help improve capabilities of small farmers/other rural community members.

The two LSA's certified is the Manga National High School Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System, Manga National High School, Manga District, Tagbilaran City with Pablita R. Cabarles, Cooperator and the Terra Elena Therapeutic Organic Haven of Bondo, Napacao, Siaton, Negros Oriental with Teresita R. Maquiso, Cooperator. Their certificate of effectivity starts on October 21 and November 11, 2021 valid until October 21 and November 11, 2026 respectively.



## NEGROS ORIENTAL FARMERS TRAINS CORN/CASSAVA PRODUCTION

**N**EGROS ORIENTAL – Another batch of Training on Corn and Cassava Production Cum Customized Feed Formulation was conducted in Stella Maris Retreat House, Poblacion, Bacong, Negros Oriental on October 13-15, 2021. Twenty (20) farmers from Amlan (Ayuquitan), Bacong, Dauin, Dumaguete City, San Jose, and Santa Catalina participated in the three-day training. The first batch of the training was conducted in Bohol on September 14-16, 2021.

Overall, the training aims that the participants should be able to gain knowledge and skills on corn and cassava production and formulate their own feeds for a sustainable agricultural development. In detail, participants learned about corn production and its management, cassava production technology, mycotoxin prevention and control, corn-based farming system and the fall armyworm. They also learned actual feed formulation using various ingredients composition and proportion/customized feed ration.

George S. Ubag, Jose Proceso G. Enopia, and Sidney T. Amaro, from the Provincial Agriculture's Office in Negros Oriental; and Buen Y. Lagunero from the Provincial Veterinary Office in Negros Oriental shared their expertise, while Ryan Joshua Villena served as a member of the training management team.

The training has an extension support component where participants were provided with one bag of urea, one bag of complete fertilizer and one bag of vermicast fertilizer.

*"I take this challenge since this is my business all about (feed formulation). At first, I was a little uncomfortable since I was not familiar with some terminologies. But I was able to understand them along the way. This training has provided me with additional knowledge especially that I also have a small livestock production which can also help me save some costs. I hope there are still other trainings similar to this in the future,"* said Fredelyn Mae Roda – one of the training participants.



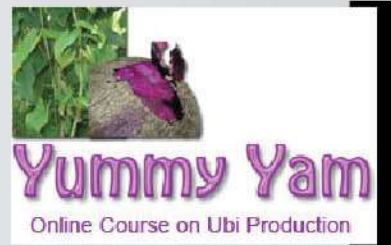
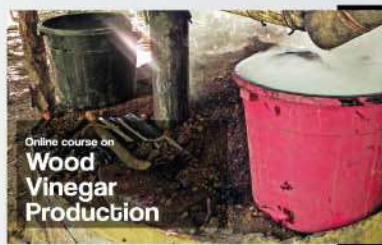


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